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Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

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Dust Detectives kickoff
A new series on page 2

Maple Leaf Forever
Celebrating Canada Day on page 5

Turtle troubles
Understanding how you can help on page 7

Flower power
A bee's eye view of a summer bloom, welcoming the warm weather in July. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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Our second read-aloud newspaper series for today's kids investigates and honours the generations before them. Past lifetimes were as meaningful then as our current realities are to us. Kids everywhere are naturally curious, and they love a good historical mystery. Everyone does!

Artifacts are not always recognizable to newer generations. In this series, twin detectives (you might recognize them from Series 1), apply their former teacher's learning approach to examine their great-grandfather's antique collection. There's a real photo every time, questions, speculation, informed answers, and hopefully, revived knowledge around what was once very important to our elders. Enjoy!

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

INTRODUCING OURSELVES!

Hi! We're Thomas and Rebecca. Twins. This is Rebecca talking. Call me Reba. We've just turned 11. Our great-grandpa nicknamed us. Everyone calls him Pops. He's 100, healthy, and still lives on property he bought by mail, in a house he built by himself. He moved there from Newfoundland with his wife and baby twin girls. He's a widower now, and one daughter lives with him. The other has a house in town a half-hour away. She's our actual Gran, and she visits often. Talk about a storyteller! Her awesome songs and tales about Newfoundland must have come directly to her through Pops!

He still runs his farm and garden, but he hired a local woman to supervise his two remaining grey barns, one green pasture, three spotted cows, one reddish-brown horse, and about a dozen white hens, all of whom snack all day long. Kind of like Thom!

The hayloft of Pops' smaller barn is no longer a storage space for straw and feed. Pops converted it long ago to a sort of museum so he never had to throw anything away. It holds tables and shelves full of stuff he found, made, traded, inherited, bought or was given. He told us that every object up there, if it had a voice, could tell us an amazing story:

Who made it? What had it meant to someone? Where had it come from? When was it important? Why is it no longer used? How did Pops get it?

Those are the same W questions (plus one H) of teachers, private investigators, undercover sleuths, spies, secret agents, researchers and reporters.

And of us. The Dust Detectives!

PLAN A: My brother and I will spend this summer exploring that hayloft, maybe even after we begin Grade 7. We'll try to figure out the stories, not of ordinary things and people, but behind some of Pops' antiques. Some look obvious, and we can easily name them. Others just seem weird.

We're not allowed to travel far or to dangerous places alone in the dark. But when we're older, it might be fun with friends and a flashlight to climb that barn ladder high up into Pops' museum and make up mysteries of treasure maps, secret codes, ghosts and ancient curses!

It's storytelling that people remember. Our Grade 6 teacher always wanted us to speak, question, swap opinions and ideas. As much as possible. Not in the rude way kids interrupt lessons. She got us to debate, recite, sing, instruct, read out loud and act, plus write a 10-month editorial journal where we told our own feelings.

When we left Miss Fields' class, so did she. She decided to work in the same city where her son teaches. Thom and I both want to keep talking about the times before us, to understand Pops, and maybe, even ourselves. Other kids might want to copy us, and ask all those same W (and H) questions. Good stories should last forever.

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I can stand, canoe?

I THINK MORE older anglers would get into canoes, if they believed they had a dignified way to get out of them too.

In fact, if I were an inventor, I would try to design a canoe seat for older anglers. Nothing too complicated – maybe just a rocket-powered ejection seat with a parachute. You know, something to give a person that initial lift-off from the canoe seat when you get close to shore.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

That idea occurred to me after a friend and I fished for over 8eight hours from a canoe on Sunday.

If you have never seen two middle-aged anglers try to disembark from a canoe after sitting on their feet all day, all you need to do is imagine two walruses trying to wriggle up onto a moss-covered dock.

Of course, I'm exaggerating – it's not nearly that elegant.

The problem isn't flexibility, strength, or balance. It's blood flow.

After you've been sitting on your feet in a canoe for a few hours, you basically have so little blood in your feet that even the mosquitoes give up.

So, you sit back on the canoe seat and try to physically pull your dead feet out from under you. Then you try wiggling your toes manually so you can coax blood back in. If in a few minutes the circulation returns – though that's never a sure bet – you can exit gracefully, which in this case basically means, you stand up precariously, waver, and then fall out of the canoe onto shore. The good news is, even though you look like Frankenstein for the first few steps, the circulation will almost always fully return – and you will be able to walk with whatever limp your bad hip allows.

The thing is that no middle-aged person wants to admit that they need a few minutes before they are physically capable of leaving the canoe. It's un-Canadian and goes against our personal belief that, had we just been born in the right era, we would have played a major role storming Juno beach on D-Day.

It conjures up scenarios like:

"Galea, take the bunker!"

"Yes sir, as soon as my feet wake up!"

And that is not good for the ego.

So, typically, when two middle-aged canoeist hit the shore or dock, they find subtle ways of keeping their condition secret and delaying until their feet work again.

Sometimes it is as simple as taking a deep breath and saying, "Wow, this place is beautiful. I just can't bring myself to leave it yet."

Or, "You get out. I'll steady the canoe."

Of course, people get even more creative than that. I once had an older fishing buddy pretend to be looking for a contact lens that fell out – which would be believable had he not been wearing glasses at the time.

I prefer to go with the old pretending to organize my fishing tackle ploy. If I do it just right, my feet will be operational just before I have closed the tackle box.

Most times, perhaps because I have shorter legs, the circulation in my feet returns before my fishing buddy is ready. This allows me to get out first and tease him about getting old.

It's quite a good feeling, and I'll think about it again, later in the day. As soon as I have had my afternoon nap.

Giving back

SIRCH Community Services was honoured to receive a generous donation from Chris, Amanda, and the Petrow Family Foundation.

"Chris, myself, and the Petrow Family Foundation are honoured to support SIRCH. We are deeply grateful for the incredible work and initiatives they provide in support of individuals and families in the Haliburton community. Having grown up in Haliburton County, Chris has a strong appreciation for how meaningful and important these local programs are, and we're truly thankful for all that SIRCH continues to do to strengthen the community."

Gifts like this help strengthen SIRCH's programs and services, allowing us to continue responding to real needs in our community with care, dignity, and compassion. /submitted

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Glimpses of the past

Rowing around Gull Lake C. 1940

These two images were taken as part of a "photo shoot" around 1940. Note that the watercraft and individuals are the same, but the locations depict different areas of Gull Lake.

RUSS WUNKER
Glimpses of the Past

The photographer represented the "Canadian Post Card Company of 1570 Dundas St. West, Toronto, Ont." A number of other views were taken the same day, and some became postcards. It is unknown who the individuals in the photos are, but given that the postcards were ultimately purchased by Miners' Bay Lodge, it is likely that the boat and individuals came from Miners' Bay.

The first photograph is taken from the large granite outcropping of rock just outside Ralph's cabin, at the Percy cottage. It looks over to the Art Hatch property. Beyond, is the Gillespie farm, and on the right, the Albert Humphrey summer home.

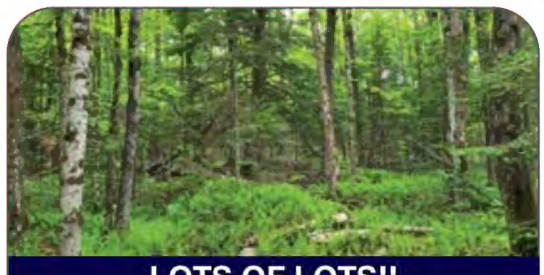
The second view looks up the lake, from beyond the mouth of Miners' Bay. It is really quite a significant photograph, with the tone of the distant hills, and the effect of the wind on the water, clearly defined.

Until the early 1950s there were very few outboard motors on Gull Lake. Earlier, there had been a number of inboard motor watercraft, but as they were phased out, and before outboards became more prominent, rowing continued to be the main way to get around the lake. Trolling for Lake Trout was usually done from a row boat, powered by the angler.

CANADA DAY

Oh, Canada

Even though the temperatures were stifling, Minden saw a full crowd of individuals celebrating Canada Day on July 1. The full-day event included the annual fishing derby, live music, and fireworks to cap it off. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



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All the world's a stage

THE HIGHLANDS Summer Festival's Production of *Anne of Green Gables* the Musical just wrapped up their run.

This show was very special to me for many reasons. Beyond relating deeply to the quirky Canadian protagonist who dreams too big and talks too much, this was the first play I ever performed in, many moons ago.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

The show first hit the stage locally in 2011, when I was between years in university, and home for the summer seeking work. I had worked backstage on a few shows before with the festival, but had never been onstage myself.

It was some of the most fun I had ever had.

And now, fast forward to 2026, my stepdaughter is now gracing the stage for her very first time in a play, and of course, it's the exact same play.

With a few tweaks to the script and some variety in directing, the show looped back to the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion to kick off their Canadian content season. Talk about a full-circle moment. And while everyone else was watching the scenes play out, my eyes were entirely glued to my girl.

She looked so happy. At 13-years-old, there are many highs and lows in life. But onstage, she looked like she had found her place in the world, surrounded by others who found joy in the same places.

At the opening night after party, everyone was invited to Maple Ave. restaurant. The kids all sat at a table together, laughing and squealing as they pulled inside jokes to the table.

And then suddenly the adults from the show started to trickle in. And while I expected them to find a table away from the cacophony of kids, every single one of them wandered up to the kids' table. They brought their own laughs, own squeals, own inside jokes they shared with the little ones.

And suddenly I realized that blurring the lines is the magic of theatre.

Of course, there are many shows focused on an adult audience with an adult cast, but when these opportunities for intergenerational play present themselves, the magic truly unfolds.

Theatre is one of those rare experiences where play lives on the forefront.

While there's a cerebral application to the memorization, the logistics, the blocking, it's also based on the concept of pretend. It's becoming someone else, creating a character, imagining another world.

I realized that one of the reasons I chose Haliburton as an adult, was because of how supported I felt as a kid in this community. Because I shared the stage with others who liked to play, and a world of pretenders who dream in the same colours.

And to watch that story unfurl for my kid is something every parent dreams of.

Of course she will forge her own path. She will wade waters and span circles, but to have that form of support, of camaraderie, of play and magic and community, all formed and found at a young age, I think that's the building blocks of life.

So here's to the doers and dreamers of all ages, who colour outside the lines and find joy in playing pretend; you make the world all the brighter.

Top 10 other things you can do with a weed eater

AFTER USING my weed eater for the second time this year, it struck me that it is a far more versatile tool than advertised. So, I put both brain cells together to come up with this list of Top 10 alternate uses for a weed whacker.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

They are:

1. To help ward off mosquitoes.
2. Use as a portable fan.
3. Perfect carnival ride for ants.
4. Extend the lines and make a very fast skipping rope game for the kids.
5. To pluck chickens.
6. Most important part in a do-it-yourself helicopter.
7. Ideal for pesky, hard to reach, body hair.
8. Coolest air guitar ever!
9. Easily sold as supercharged Quidditch broom.
10. Can double as a cheap blender to make green smoothies.

Pond

Sun searing Air, thick as layers of silt and sludge
cloaking the bottom of the pond,
willows wilting, their branches drooping to take
a sip, tips of green leaves skimming the surface of
the pond,
reflecting clouds floating in puddles of blue Sky,
not a wisp of breeze rippling across the still water,
as I stand at the edge of the pond, alongside reeds
taller than me, their spines slouching like mine,
my eyes blinking up at a butter-coloured butterfly
flitting over the reeds, passing a dragonfly on its
flight,
sunlight dripping onto its cobalt blue wings,
shimmering as it zig-zags through Air,
around the fringe of the pond, the water's smooth
skin rumpled by bubbles burbling up from below,
Life breathing beneath the surface, in the depths
of the pond, my eyes entranced by the bursting
bubbles,
wondering what fish swish below, wishing I were
one of them on this sweltering day,
my Breath wilting like the willow as I seek shelter
in the shade beneath its branches,
watching the bubbles appear and disappear, peering
down into the cool dark cave of the pond,
uncertain what I see, the shadow-coloured creature, craggy as a rock, floating just beneath the surface,
the heaviness of its shell, weightless in the water,
as I watch the giant turtle swim,
marveling at the grace of its strokes, moving in
slow-motion beneath the water, flecks of
sunlight painting
patches of its shell and folds in its neck, I wonder
how old the turtle must be,
maybe a century, its shell, large as some of the
rocks that rest on the grass, roasting in the Sun,
the turtle swimming toward the edge of the pond,
the talons of its claws pawing at the water, pausing
to rest, its
head piercing the surface of the pond, the black
beads of its hooded eyes, staring up at me,
eyes that look sad and worn and wise, and oddly,
human, as it holds my gaze, sunlight and Air grazing its head,
craggy as tree bark, my eyes transfixed by what
they see, watching as the turtle treads water
before its head sinks back into the silence of the
pond, paddling away with its claws, its tail, thicker
than a stick,
growing thinner beneath the surface, as I watch
'till the shadow-coloured shape grows dimmer,
its shell shrinking in size, the old turtle swimming
deeper into the sanctuary of the pond,
where it shares shelter with fish and other creatures, in the cool quiet of the depths,
while I stand here, alongside the reeds, slouching
their spines like mine, staring into the stillness of
water
where the turtle raised its head to glimpse a sliver
of willow and Sky, its ancient eyes, still holding
mine.

Sylvie Kalenda

Report drivers that intentionally hit turtles

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

Without local support, turtle populations in Haliburton County will dwindle every year.

"Deliberate acts of wildlife cruelty appear to be increasing," said Leora Berman, the chief operating officer of the Turtle Guardians.

According to Berman, she believes that viewing the act of conservation through a political lens has weakened the support for protecting nature.

An act that has spawned posts and heated discussion is the intentional harming of turtles with motorized vehicles.

The intentional hitting of turtles and other wildlife will never be tolerated.

If you see it happen, you have the duty to report it.

"While these incidents remain the exception rather than the norm, we are concerned that deliberate wildlife cruelty can sometimes influence others if it is ignored or tolerated," said Berman. "That is why it is important for communities to speak clearly in support of respect for wildlife and to report deliberate acts when they occur."

Killing a turtle in Ontario is a serious offence. A first offence against a protected turtle species can carry penalties of up to $25,000 and/or a year of imprisonment.

With the Turtle Guardians, fewer and fewer young turtles have been spotted this year. With less young turtles, there have also been fewer older adults.

The backbone of our local turtle populations, the larger, older turtles, are established breeders that contribute back to the turtle population. It takes decades for turtles to mature and regenerate their own kind.

"This gradual loss of both breeders and newcomers represents an erosion of nature's ability to renew itself," said Berman.

In Ontario, the spiny softshell turtle along the Thames River in southwestern Ontario was considered close to being locally extinct, with few young turtles surviving to grow into the breeding population. The Southern Ontario At Risk Reptiles program was established through the guidance of Scott Gillingwater to create a recovery strategy to protect adult turtles, incubate eggs, and release hatchlings back into the ecosystem.

"They worked to ensure that both today's breeders and tomorrow's breeders survived," said Berman.

It took 16 years before the first protected hatchlings returned as breeding adults. Berman says that the program has been successful, with their local spiny softshell turtle population containing hatchlings, juveniles, and mature breeding adults, indicating that restoration has begun and the population is slowly recovering.

Following the success of this model, the Turtle Guardians have been leading the protection of turtles in Haliburton and beyond for the past ten years. Their practice protects turtles through road patrols, emergency response, protecting nests, and incubating eggs to increase hatchling's success rate.

A small painted turtle peeking out of its shell. /photo by Tammy Nash

"Recovery takes patience," said Berman.

Berman says that they expect it to take another decade before seeing telltale signs of Haliburton's turtle population regenerating.

Opposing forces to the protection of turtles includes the surging demand for residential development, increasing traffic volumes, and driver's aggression.

"Each year we see not only turtles, but bears, deer, and many other wildlife species killed on our roads. We see moose displaced and on roads as well," said Berman. "These concerns have become significant enough that the Ministry of Natural Resources, the OPP, municipalities, and conservation organizations are working together to address the growing rate of wildlife-vehicle collisions."

In the current discussions of amalgamation, one common theme that has come up again and again, is that nature and local wildlife is one of the most desired features of the Haliburton Highlands.

"Love them or hate them, people feel a lot about the turtles, and we hope that through sustained action, children growing up in Haliburton decades from now will still have the opportunity to encounter turtles and respond to them, muse at their likeness to dinosaurs, and benefit from their role in our fisheries and waters," said Berman.

If you see a vehicle intentionally swerving to drive over turtles, or failing to avoid one when it is clearly safe to do so, report the vehicle's make, model, colour, and if possible, license plate number. Any information on the time, location, and description of the driver can help the Ministry implement patrols in areas where this is occurring. Report the incident to the Ministry of Natural Resources TIPS line by calling 1-877-847-7667.

Above all, never put yourself at risk.

As of the publication of this article, there are two cases of intentional harm towards turtles that will see prosecution from civilian reporting to the MNR.

Community reporting is one of the strongest ways to protect vulnerable species and deter crime against wildlife.

Turtles may be on our roads until the end of July. If you see a turtle on the road, make sure that it is not nesting. Watch the turtle to see if it turns around towards the water to lay its eggs. If it does not appear to be nesting, you can safely help it across the road. The Turtle Guardians' helpline can be texted or called at 705-854-2888.

If you come across a turtle that is injured, never leave it to suffer. Never try to relocate a turtle to another waterbody.

While a turtle's shell seems like armour, the turtle can feel damage done to it. After surviving for hundreds of millions of years, turtles are amazingly hardy and can survive from the most terrible of injuries.

Note the location of the injured turtle and ensure your safety and the safety of other drivers before attempting to help. When it is safe to do so, collect the turtle in either a box or put them on your car's floormat. Never offer the turtle food or water. Text the Turtle Guardians helpline or contact the Turtle Hospital at 705-741-5000.

Volunteers can often meet you to bring assistance to the turtle, or will direct you on where to bring the turtle for it to receive care.

Ski–Mazing ventures into eFoils

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

Aaron Walker of NUEFOIL shows how to ride an eFoil on 12 Mile Lake. Walker visited Craig Bowker's Ski-Mazing to train their staff to offer eFoil lessons this summer. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Imagine a surf board that you can take anywhere, even without a wave to catch.

On Saturday, June 20, I was extended an invitation from Ski-Mazing to take photos of a skilled electric hydrofoiler (also known as an eFoil) visiting Minden Hills.

Craig Bowker, owner of Ski-Mazing, was having Aaron Walker of NUEFOIL visit from Vancouver Island to 12 Mile Lake to teach his staff the ins and outs of eFoiling.

Now you may ask yourself, what is an eFoil?

Unlike a traditional surfboard, hydrofoils were created to use either a motor or windsurfing technology to ride on top of water. Electric hydrofoils, or eFoils, use an electric motor to get you moving.

Envision someone riding on a surfboard, but instead of the wind or waves propelling you, you can control your own speed with an engine, while being lifted out of the water by the hydrofoil underneath.

"Do you want to try it yourself?" asked Bowker.

Now valued readers, for some background, I have never skateboarded in my life, nor have I ever gone surfing.

Yet, with the opportunity to try a new sport being thrown in my lap, I enthusiastically agreed.

For context, I have the same balance as a newborn deer.

However, I have gone tubing and thrown across the lake, so I am no stranger to falling in the water.

Known internationally as a recognized water skier, I knew that I was under the right guidance to experience a watersport for the first time in my life.

Travelling to Ski-Mazing's base of operation at 9 Taylor Road, near the Twin Lakes Resort was simple to get to. The Ski-Mazing team was nothing short of hospitable in welcoming me on their dock, checking in with me, and making sure I felt safe and comfortable every step of the process.

Under Walker's instruction, I climbed from the dock on the eFoil.

And immediately slipped off into the drink, clambered back on the dock and went to try to get on again.

Quickly, I learned not to fight the board. Walker says that the sensation is foreign to many people, and while the board feels like it is tipping, trying to counterbalance makes it harder to stay stable.

It might have been my nerves, but it felt like I was bear hugging the board. Hey, at least I stayed on the thing.

Squeezing the speed gauge, I pushed away from the dock.

Getting a hand of speeding up and leaning to steer it did not take long.

Soon enough, it felt like I was flying above 12 Mile Lake. I remained on my knees (remember, baby deer), but it was still a blast.

Walker, a resident of Vancouver Island, says that he regularly takes his eFoil out spearfishing. With NUEFOIL's eFoil being inflatable, it is easily transportable and cheaper.

Alongside Ski-Mazing staff, Walker was able to get all of us flying across the lake in a short time. This summer, Bowker will offer eFoiling as an option with Ski-Mazing. Fortunately for you, eFoiling will be part of a two-hour session.

While hydrofoiling is not a new invention, there have been tremendous strides in creating an eFoil that is both affordable and transportable.

On the West Coast, eFoiling has become a very popular watersport activity. Yet in Ontario, eFoiling is rarely seen.

That is something that Bowker hopes to change. Together with NUEFOIL, Bowker hopes the popularity of eFoiling spreads.

Walker says that there was interest from his company to bring eFoiling to cottage country to increase awareness of the sport and showcase a Canadian-made brand.

Trying eFoiling was an amazing opportunity to experience a watersport that I have never heard of before.

Using my body to steer and hold to the eFoil pushed my core, arms, and chest, making eFoiling both fun and a good workout.

Sessions to try eFoiling can be booked through Ski-Mazing's website ski-mazing.com or you can call 705-455-7697.

Thank you to Craig Bowker, Aaron Walker and the Ski-Mazing team for the opportunity to try eFoiling.

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Christmas in July!!
When: July 1-31
Where: Canoe FM (739 Mountain St.) or the Lily Ann Thrift Shop (33 York St.)
The Haliburton Food Bank is fundraising throughout the month of July to raise awareness about its needs. You can help by donating a new, unwrapped toy or cash donations at Canoe FM or the Lily Ann Thrift Shop, or by e-transferring funds to 4csfoodbank@gmail.com. Check out the store in July for sales on Christmas Decoration, pictures with Santa on July 1 and face painting with Santa during midnight madness.

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: July 9, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: A&W Parking Lot, Haliburton
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

A visit to the Miners' Bay Store C. 1960
When: July 8, 8 to 9 p.m.
Where: Miners' Bay Church, at the foot of the Rock Cut, at the corner of Highway 35 and Miners' Bay Rd.
Weekly Wednesday-night history presentations exploring local history, significant past events, and personal stories from the presenter's own life. Each session features a unique theme plus new local stories and vignettes not shared before. The Air Conditioning will be on, and complimentary cold drinks provided. All are welcome!

Murder at Birchwood Estate: A Victorian Mystery
When: July 10, 11, Doors open at 6 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Community Centre, 9 Grandy Rd., Coboconk
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When: July 11 to 12
Where: SpiralGate of Art and Wellbeing, 18378 Highway 118, Tory Hill, Ontario
For registration and information email froghollow118@gmail.com. Community Website: www.FrogHollowArtExperience.com. Whirling Wisdom Art Studio: www.BiljanaArt.com. Instagram: @whirling.wisdom.art

Early Tourism on Gull Lake Before 1940
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Where: Kawartha Dairy, Minden
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When: July 21, 5:30pm to Dusk
Where: Eagle Lake County Market
Rain Date Tuesday, July 28. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

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When: July 22, 8 to 9 p.m.
Where: Miners' Bay Church, at the foot of the Rock Cut, at the corner of Highway 35 and Miners' Bay Rd.
Weekly Wednesday-night history presentations exploring local history, significant past events, and personal stories from the presenter's own life. Each session features a unique theme plus new local stories and vignettes not shared before. The Air Conditioning will be on, and complimentary cold drinks provided. All are welcome!

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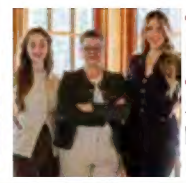

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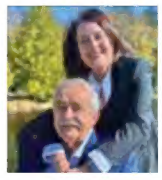

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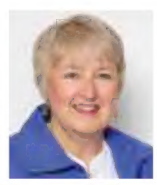

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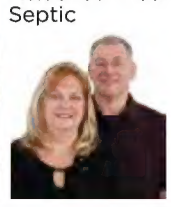

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Thursdays: Open 2 to 10 p.m.
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Fridays: Open 2 to 11 p.m. July 17, 31 Wings and Jam Session 5 to 8 p.m. - $15/lb, July 10 - Fish & Chips 5 to 8 p.m., 1pc - $15 2pc - $20, July 24 – Cannelloni dinner and live music, 5 to 8 p.m. - $10
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Branch 636 Minden

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Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, No Darts for the Summer. Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
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Architect helps health board set sights on construction

by MARIA CALABRESE
Staff Reporter

After its inaugural year in operation, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation may be wrestling with a $75,000 deficit, but it has its sights set on the capital project at Haliburton Hospital and Hyland Crest.

The board's annual general meeting, held on June 26 at Minden's Community Centre, was attended by Millet Salter from Salter and Associates, the Barrie-based architectural firm selected to design both sites.

Salter's firm just finished construction of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, a $75-million project that was a joint effort with another firm. Salter presented what he called "very preliminary" schematics of the renovations that will accommodate the existing 62 long-term care beds at Hyland Crest, the new emergency department at the site and 30 new long-term care beds at Haliburton Hospital.

"A hospital and a long-term care facility have real benefits in being joined together, but there also has to be a degree of separation. The residents of the long-term care facilities call these facilities home," Salter said.

He added that privacy, support and security both during renovations and after the work is completed would be ensured for the residents at both locations. Also, the two sites would be left as one tender.

"There are two different approaches, two different sites, two different sets of needs but many commonalities of services, functions and components," he said.

The existing Haliburton site has 10 acute-care beds and will be given three more beds. The upgraded facility with 32 long-term care beds will probably be connected with a common entrance but separated, Salter explained.

Visitors' parking for the hospital and for the long-term care facility may be expanded to the rear, but he said soil conditions

See CONSTRUCTION page 4

STUBBORN AS A MULE: Eeyore the four-year-old mule wasn't in a hurry to go anywhere very fast, which suited two-year-old Daniel Gardiner just fine. Daniel and his mother Eliza were at Eagle Lake Farms to look at the animals and take a saunter around the barnyard.

Voting by mail or phone nixed this time around

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It looks like cottagers will have to vote the old-fashioned way this November – by driving up to the Highlands and casting a vote at their municipality's polling station.

While many municipalities had hoped they could make it easier by allowing voting by mail or phone – or even setting up a polling station in Toronto –, it seems there are too many uncertainties to make it feasible this time around.

"There's no security on these (mail-in) ballots," said Cardiff deputy-reeve Doug Holman at Wednesday's county council meeting. If people received a ballot by mail and decided not to vote, "the possibility exists that people could sell off their ballots and a group could take over a municipality."

What if the ballot is lost in the mail or not delivered on time? Canada Post is responsible for ensuring that ballots are delivered, but people who don't get one will likely complain to their municipal clerks who can do little to resolve the problem.

"We did a lot of research and did not get a lot of satisfactory

See VOTING page 7

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Talks begin on amalgamation options

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Municipal clerks have taken out their pencils and erasers to try to figure out the financial repercussions of what would happen if the borders between some municipalities are removed.

County council has asked the clerks to look at the financial impact of three restructuring ideas:

• *County government plus three municipalities:*
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  • Harcourt, Bicroft, Cardiff, Monmouth, Glamorgan
  • Dysart et al less Harcourt, and Snowdon
• *County plus four municipalities:*
  • Sherborne, Stanhope
  • Anson, Hindon, Minden, Lutterworth, Snowdon
  • Dysart et al less Harcourt, Glamorgan
  • Harcourt, Monmouth, Cardiff, Bicroft
• *County plus three municipalities (alternate):*
  • Snowdon, Glamorgan, Cardiff, Bicroft, Monmouth
  • Lutterworth, Anson, Hindon, Minden, Stanhope, Sherborne
  • Dysart et al

"We're here to lead our communities and we can't be blinded by what's happening in the rest of the province," Warden Murray Fearrey said to fellow county councillors last month when he proposed that council at least consider the other restructuring options. "You may not want to do it, but as leaders we should look at them."

Up until now, county council has considered and rejected a

See AMALGAMATION page 7

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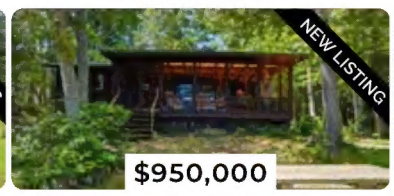

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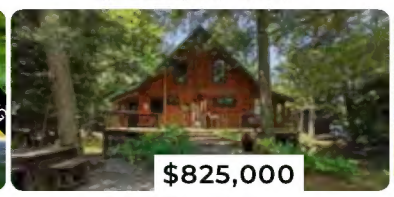

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BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13467324

LONG LAKE

BED 6 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13034386

KENNISIS RIVER

BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13135162

REYNOLDS ROAD

BED 3 | BATH 2+1 | MLS #X13185368

HALIBURTON VILLAGE

BED 2+1 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13454954

SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE

BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13420872

HALIBURTON VILLAGE

BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13481332

KOSHLONG LAKE RD

3.48 ACRES | MLS #X13113762

WEST SETTLEMENT RD

BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13163216

SILVER BEACH

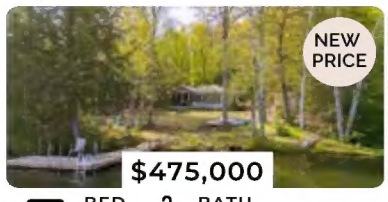
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13113762

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35

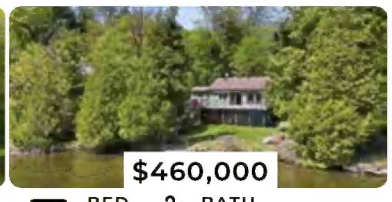
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

ALLEN LAKE

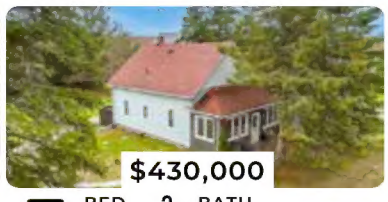
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13495804

MONROCK LAKE


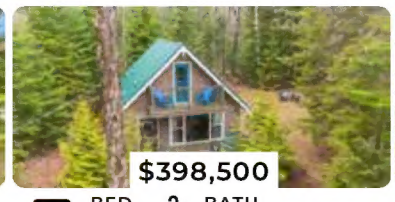
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE


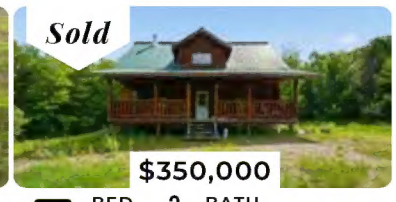
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13222622

COUNTY ROAD 503


BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13111224

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD


BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

MCCREA ROAD


BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13490618

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$425,000
18.4 Acres | MLS #X13475286

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Haliburton
BOUGHNER RD
$199,900
5.31 Acres | MLS #X13061996

Algonquin Highlands
BRADY LAKE RD
$199,900
0.48 Acres | MLS #X13129990

Eagle Lake
STILLS RD
$145,000
1.21 Acres | MLS #X13118448

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